

FOREWORD

In the spring of 1999, staff at the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction notified the administrators of 60 high schools throughout the state that their schools were selected randomly to participate in an extremely important study of student behaviors and perceptions in a variety of health and safety areas. As a result, educators, community service planners, legislators, policy makers, and parents now will have information that can lead to solutions to the challenges facing many young people in our state.

The purpose of such a study is to take a “snapshot” of the health and well being of Wisconsin adolescents. By understanding the barriers to learning, as well as the factors that can strengthen children, we can develop strategies that will ensure their academic, vocational, social and emotional success. This, in turn, can ensure a brighter future for all of us.

I encourage you to read this report with one question in mind: How can I use this information to make a contribution to the improvement of the health and safety of Wisconsin school children? Together, we can do so much. But, it starts with a personal commitment to act. Please have the same courage the principals and the 1,336 student participants had in telling this story.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John T. Benson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John T. Benson
State Superintendent